

CONCERNING OSTEOPATHY.

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, Calif.

Gentlemen: The Los Angeles County Medical Association is made up of a majority of the ethical and well-known physicians, surgeons and specialists of the county.

The Board of Councilors of this Association has instructed us to register with you its protest against the granting of the request of the Osteopathic Colleges to have attending staffs at the Los Angeles County Hospital, and gives as reasons for such protest the following facts:

1. That the physical welfare of the great majority of the patients at the County Hospital would be undoubtedly imperiled were such osteopathic staffs allowed in the institution.
2. The general management, discipline and order in the institution would be undoubtedly impaired.
3. The present attending staff, made up of many of the prominent physicians and surgeons and specialists of the community, would probably be tempted to withdraw their very valuable services from the institution.
4. The good will of the mass of the educated medical profession of this country would be probably withdrawn from the County Hospital and the majority of the citizens of the county would likewise feel the same way.
5. It would be almost impossible to secure an adequate number of well educated internes.
6. The lowered tone of the Nurses' Training School would make it difficult to secure young women to enter the County Hospital Training School for Nurses.
7. And last but not least, it may be permissible to call your attention to the fact that these two osteopathic colleges are largely run for private profit;
8. And that their educational standards are those which were discarded by medical schools years ago as being too low for a profession dealing with so responsible and sacred a matter as life and death;
9. And that, according to the law of California, it was intended that practitioners of osteopathy should only be allowed to practice those manipulative procedures peculiar to their sect, but that they have gradually and without warrant of the law, assumed to be practitioners of medicine and surgery also, in defiance of the conditions under which they were given initial privileges to practice their peculiar methods;
10. And that because of their low educational standards and narrow and unscientific viewpoint of disease;
11. And because they have not kept faith with the statements which they made to the Legislature when they, several years ago, applied for State recognition through a special osteopathic board of examiners;
12. That therefore, the great mass of the medical profession look upon them with such distrust that consultation with them is refused, and that they are not classed as yet as a legitimate part of the medical profession.

For the above reasons, the Board of Councilors of the Los Angeles County Medical Association feels it to be its duty to the Los Angeles County Hospital and to its patients, and to the public health interests of the community, to object to the introduction of osteopathic staffs at the Los Angeles County Hospital at this time.

Respectfully submitted.

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Committee.

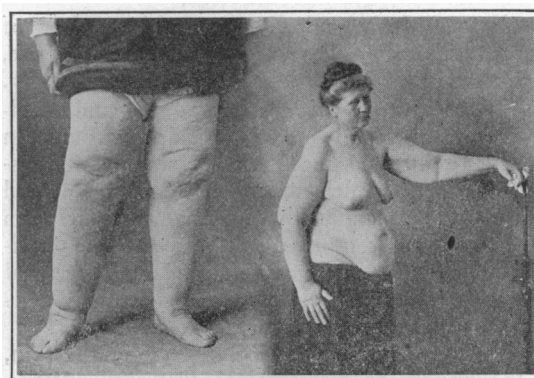
ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.**A Case of Adiposis Dolorosa.**

By EDWARD VON ADELUNG, B. S., M. D., Oakland, Cal.

In 1888, F. X. Dercum announced a new syndrome characterized by irregular symmetrical deposits of fatty masses in various localities on the body, accompanied by pain. The disease was given the name, therefore, of Adiposis Dolorosa.

It occurs most frequently in women between the ages of forty and sixty years. Usually the patient notices first the enlargement of some part of the body such as the ankles, arms, shoulders or trunk, due to nodules of fat, which usually grow to larger masses, although they sometimes disappear, to recur later. At the same time nervous symptoms occur, such as a sense of cold in the part, dull, aching pain or marked tenderness or neuralgic pain and other paraesthesias. The swellings do not pit on pressure and in some patients are very sensitive to pressure, especially on the arms and legs. At first these masses are circumscribed, but later are more diffuse and ultimately are found as pendulous masses of fat, veritable folds of adipose tissue. Unlike obesity, the hands, feet and face are unaffected. The contrast between the feet and the legs or between the hands and arm is often striking.

The skin remains white and pliable, the mass on palpation giving often the impression of a bag of worms similar to varicocele but more resistant.



Adiposis Dolorosa.

On account of the large increase in weight as well as the development of muscular weakness, locomotion becomes more or less difficult. Among occasional symptoms observed in this disease are loss of knee-jerks and other deep reflexes, contraction of the visual fields, dyspnoea, epistaxis, headache, herpes, hematemesis, early menopause or menstrual irregularities, pigmentation, absence of perspiration and mental weakness even to dementia.

The cause of the disease is as yet undetermined. Syphilis may play an important part, the thyroid gland has been found atrophied in some cases, interstitial neuritis and haemolymph glands have been found, but most interesting of all is the enlargement with new formation of the pituitary gland. The compensatory relation between the thyroid and pituitary glands seems fairly well established.

One differentiates from general obesity by the distribution of the fat, the firmer fat of adiposis dolorosa, the pains, and the escape of the feet, hands and face. One differentiates from Myxoedema by the absence of many of the signs of that disease, notably the peculiar mask-like face, spade-like hands, infiltrated skin, slow speech, tetany, and by the presence of pain and pressure. Myxoedema responds to thyroid medication; adiposis dolorosa is usually unaffected.

The disease is progressive and incurable, though